

Enfield Clean Energy Newsletter

The Committee

The Enfield Clean Energy Committee is a Town Committee made up of Enfield Residents interested in promoting Clean Renewable Energy.

The team members:

Jeff Myjak—Chair
Ray Gwozdz - V. Chair
Virginia Higley
Steve Moriarty
Greg Mark
Doug Lombardi

LIAISONS :

Town Council:
Tom Kienzler

Staff:
Joel Cox

Points:



When we reach 200 points, we will be 1 step closer to getting a 2kw solar system.

Each Clean Option purchase is worth 1 point. Each Solar or Geothermal system is worth 3points.

Clean Option Points	154
System Points	63
Total Points	217

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Enfield Students win eesmarts award

Congratulations go out to Elisasia Peralta and Cheyenne Ellis - 7th grade students at JFK. They were 2 out of over 750 students across the state that entered this years eesmarts program (Energy Efficiency smart) sponsored on by The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund.

As 7th grade students, there task was to write a 2 page speech. You are running for President of the United States, and you have been asked to give a speech about how the nation can become more energy efficient. Write a two page persuasive speech to the American public about your policy regarding energy conservation, energy-efficient technologies and clean, renewable energy



Pictured from left to right, Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund First Vice-Chairman Richard W. Steeves, Sen., Kissel, Elisasia Peralta, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Commissioner Dan Esty and Cheyenne Ellis.

sources. Make sure to consider both sides of the argument (example: clean energy is beneficial for the environment; how-

ever, it costs a lot more than fossil fuels).

Continues on pg2—see eesmarts

Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) Explained

As Enfield looks to put solar at Arrays the Police Stations and Waste Treatment Plant, it is important to understand what they are buying.

A Power Purchase Agreement (or PPA) is an agreement to buy the electricity. Putting in these large solar arrays projects can be expensive and towns/municipalities are not eligible for the Federal Tax Incentives.

Rather than have the town outlay tens of thousands of dollars, they contract out to developers to come in and build the and

sell the electricity to the town. The town will often pay 30 to 40% less than what they pay for it off the grid. The developer takes on the responsibility of insurance, maintenance and in return gets a steady cash flow for 15 to 20 years.

A recent example of a success story is the city of Middletown, working with Greenskies Renewable Energy, turned their old landfill into a Solar Park. In turn, they agree to buy all the electricity that Greenskies creates from this at 6 cents a kwh - which is 9 cents less than what they currently pay.

The same program is expanding to commercial businesses, farmers, manufacturers and retailers. Solar companies are coming in, installing these systems and the business doesn't have to lay out large amounts of capital, worry about insurance or maintenance.

One of the issues that will complicate this in the future is a property tax bill - HR5538. It will make some commercial solar systems exempt from property tax. We have reached out to Rep. Linda Gentile, the author of the bill, with questions, and we have not heard back. Stay tuned!

CLEAN ENERGY OPTION FAQ'S

Q: I signed up with Sterling Planet to supply my clean energy options. They are no longer participating in the program. Does the town still get credit?

A. Yes. Even though they no longer participate in the program, the town will still get the credit.

Q. When I enroll in the program, how much of the energy comes from outside the Northeast?

A. None. Because of the success of this Clean Energy Option program, they have reinvested it into the Northeast. Enough so, that now all of our needs are met here. But there is still more investment needed. We are still relying on coal and oil to supply some of our electricity. Those need to be replaced by local clean renewable sources.

Q: I have a question that may be of interest to your readers. Is there a place where I can send it?

A. Yes. Send it to cleanenergy@enfield.org. We will be happy to answer it in an upcoming newsletter.

www.enfieldcleanenergy.net

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First Zero Net Energy Transit Center in the Nation

Boston recently dedicated the John W. Olver Transit Center, the first zero net energy building of its kind in the nation. Working closely with Charles Rose Architects, Arup led the mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering as well as lighting design for the project that will produce enough renewable energy over the year to offset the total energy used within that building over the same time period.

They have designed several cutting-edge energy reduction strategies and renewable generation technologies for the transit center. Their hope is that with features including real-time energy usage monitoring displayed in the building, users will be inspired to look for new opportunities to reduce their

own energy consumption. Key features include:

- 22 geothermal wells buried 405 feet deep
- 98-kilowatt ground-mounted photovoltaic array, 7,300ft²
- On-site 750 MBH (750,000 BTU/hour) boiler fueled by wood pellets from managed sources
- Solar wall that preheats fresh air by as much as 15 degrees during peak winter sun
- Air handling unit incorporating variable speed fans and energy recovery
- Daylight modeling used to determine optimal placement of windows, clerestory and skylights

- All lighting controlled by a system integrating occupancy sensors, photocells and dimming control
- LED light fixtures provided in parking lots
- Low-flow water fixtures yielding 35% water savings
- Annual energy consumption estimated at less than 35 kBtu/square foot

The transportation hub will also house community space and offices for the Franklin Regional Transit Authority and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. The center will also serve as an Amtrak station with the completion of the Knowledge Corridor Rail Project in approximately two years and is expected to be a catalyst for redevelopment and growth in the region.

Summer Savings Tips

Are you looking for ways to cool your house without breaking the bank? Here are a few ideas:

- Put in an automatic thermostat. Set it to come on 30 to 60 minutes before you come home and before you get up. Set it to turn up 4 to 6 degrees before you leave for work and 30 minutes before you go to bed.

- Consider using a whole house fan in the evening. With the windows open, it will act like an air conditioner, pulling in the cool outside air.
- Run your air conditioner as high as you can. Running it at 78 instead of 72 can save you as much as 18%.
- Properly insulate your attic. On warm days, your attic can get up to 140 degrees.

A continuous roof vent and soffit can help lower those temperatures.

- Go oven-less at dinner. Use a microwave or outdoor grill.
- Install ceiling fans. They can lower the effective temperature by 7 degrees.
- Unplug your appliance when they are not in use.

eesmart Winners (cont.)

Both students researched energy resources, conservation methods and ideas for energy efficiency.

Cheyenne started off by asking why with the USA only having 4% of the world's population, why are we responsible for 25% of the pollution.

Elissia started off her paper talking about parents and how they should try to make the

world a better life for their children. That starts with making a better earth.

On Tuesday, May 22, both Elisa and Cheyenne were awarded recognized at the State Capital as 2 of the 4 finalists.

One of the many great things about this program, all the eesmart workshops and lessons fully align with the Connecticut Mastery Test, the Connecticut

State Science Framework, the Connecticut State Mathematics Framework and the National Science Standards.

Congratulations to all the students that participated and thank to Mrs. Ewing, our Science Department Chair

To see their papers, go to www.EnfieldCleanEnergy.net and click on 2012 eeSmart winners.